

Patent
SFTGB Docket No.: 351901.1010
In re: Saker
Serial No. 09/981,585

THE CLAIMS

The following list reflects the present status of the application claims.

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1. (Previously presented) A connector sleeve, comprising:
- first means for encompassing a portion of a tubing assembly junction having a first end proximal to a first end of the sleeve and a portion of a first tube proximal to the first end of the tubing assembly junction, the first means for encompassing a portion of the tubing assembly junction enabling observation of the tubing assembly junction within the length of the sleeve, the first end of the sleeve securing the first tube to the tubing assembly junction; and
- second means for encompassing a portion of the tubing assembly junction having a second end proximal to a second end of the sleeve and a portion of a second tube proximal to a second end of the tubing assembly junction, the second means for encompassing a portion of the tubing assembly junction enabling observation of the second tube within the length of the sleeve, the second end of the sleeve securing the second tube to the tubing assembly junction, the connector sleeve configured to receive an assembled tubing assembly junction, wherein the connector sleeve engages respective elements of the assembled tubing assembly junction to restrict relative movement of the first tube and the second tube.
2. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for encompassing a portion of a tubing assembly junction comprises a housing with an aperture.
3. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for encompassing a portion of a second tube comprises a housing with a slot.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for encompassing a portion of a second tube proximal to a second end of the tubing assembly junction comprises a tapered inner surface of the housing.

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1 6. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 5, wherein the means for
2 securing further comprises a restrictor.

1 7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 3, wherein the slot is
2 substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of the connector sleeve.

1 9. (Original) The connector of claim 6, wherein the restrictor comprises a
2 plate.

1 10. (Original) The connector of claim 6, wherein the restrictor comprises a
2 tab.

1 11. (Previously presented) The connector of claim 8, wherein the housing
2 forms a slot having a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of the second tube of the
3 tubing assembly.

1 12. (Original) The connector of claim 9, wherein the plate forms an inlet port
2 having a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of an inlet tube of the tubing assembly.

1 13. (Original) The connector of claim 9, wherein the plate forms an inlet port
2 having a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of a nipple of a coupler of the tubing
3 assembly.

1 14. (Original) The connector of claim 10, wherein the tab is biased into the
2 aperture of the housing.

1 15. – 19. (Canceled)

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1 20. (Previously presented) A connector sleeve, comprising:
2 a housing configured to receive an assembled tubing assembly junction and engage
3 respective elements of the assembled tubing assembly junction to restrict relative movement
4 of a first tube and a second tube coupled by the tubing assembly junction, the housing
5 comprising:

6 a first portion that includes an aperture along the longitudinal axis of the
7 sleeve and a restrictor that intrudes from the housing, the first portion configured to
8 encompass a portion of a tubing assembly junction and contact a first end surface of the
9 tubing assembly junction; and
10 a second portion that includes a slot along the longitudinal axis of the sleeve
11 and a tapered inner surface, the second portion configured to closely surround and contact a
12 second end surface of the tubing assembly junction along the tapered inner surface.

1 21. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 20, further
2 comprising:
3 a transverse wall forming an inlet port proximal to a first end of the sleeve, the inlet
4 port configured to substantially surround a portion of the circumference of a first tube coupled
5 to the tubing assembly junction.

1 22. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 21, wherein the
2 transverse wall contacts the outer surface of the first tube.

1 23. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 21, wherein the inlet
2 port has a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of a nipple of a coupler of the tubing
3 assembly.

1 24. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 20, wherein the
2 restrictor comprises a transverse wall that engages the first tube.

1 25. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 20, wherein the
2 restrictor comprises at least one tab substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the
3 connector sleeve.

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1 26. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 24, wherein the at
2 least one tab is biased into the aperture of the housing.

1 27. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 20, further
2 comprising.

3 an outlet port proximal to a second end of the sleeve, the outlet port configured to
4 substantially surround a portion of the circumference of a second tube coupled to the tubing
5 assembly junction.

1 28. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 1, wherein said
2 means for encompassing a portion of a tubing assembly junction having a first end proximal
3 to a first end of the sleeve and a portion of a first tube proximal to the first end of the tubing
4 assembly junction secures the tubing assembly by contacting a surface of the tubing assembly
5 junction substantially orthogonal to a longitudinal axis of the connector sleeve.

1 29. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 5, wherein the
2 tapered inner surface of the housing is associated with said means for encompassing a portion
3 of a second tube proximal to a second end of the tubing assembly junction.

1 30. (Previously presented) The connector sleeve of claim 20, wherein the
2 housing is configured to enable observation of the tubing assembly junction within the entire
3 length of the sleeve.